

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A protection apparatus that is configured to float on a body of water, comprising:

a composite-based durable barrier structure, the barrier structure configured to hold a net in place, wherein the protection apparatus protects an area in the body of water or abutting the body of water from waterborne craft; and

at least three pontoons, wherein a first pontoon is coupled to a portion of the barrier structure adjacent to a first end of the barrier structure, wherein a second pontoon is coupled to a portion of the barrier structure adjacent to a second end of the barrier structure, and wherein a third pontoon is coupled to a portion of the barrier structure between the first and second ends of the barrier structure, and

wherein the barrier structure comprises:

a beam that is coupled to the first, second and third pontoons, and that extends longitudinally along a direction of the net; and

a plurality of net holding members that extend upward from the beam;

a first brace that extends from the third pontoon to ~~either: a) a position on the beam that is between the first pontoon and the third pontoon, or b) the first pontoon;~~
and

a second brace that extends from the third pontoon to ~~either: a) a position on the beam that is between the second pontoon and the third pontoon, or b) the second pontoon.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The protection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first and second pontoons are of a first length, and
wherein the third pontoon is of a second length greater than the first length.

5. (Previously Presented) The protection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the beam spans an entire length of the barrier structure, and wherein the beam is a composite-based structure.

6. (Original) The protection apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the beam is in a range of 40 to 50 feet in length.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The protection according to claim 1, wherein the composite-based durable barrier structure is a fiberglass reinforced plastic durable barrier structure.

9. – 24. (Canceled).

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The A protection apparatus according to claim 13, that is configured to float on a body of water, comprising:~~

a plurality of barrier units positioned side-by-side, each of the barrier units comprising a composite-based durable barrier structure, the barrier structure configured to hold a net in place in order to protect an area in the body of water or abutting the body of water from waterborne craft; and

a plurality of connectors respectively provided between adjacently-positioned ones of the barrier units positioned side-by-side,

wherein each of the connectors includes a tensile member and a dampening member,

wherein each of the plurality of barrier units includes an inverted V-shaped brace that provides additional support for protecting against the waterborne craft from penetrating the protection apparatus, and

wherein each of the plurality of barrier units further comprises:

a bracket disposed at each end of the plurality of barrier units, each of the brackets having an opening at a top portion thereof;

wherein each of the connectors further comprises:

a chain link that corresponds to the tensile member; and

wherein the protection apparatus further comprises:

a pin that is configured to be placed downward through the opening at the top portion of each of the brackets, to thereby hold the connectors in place against the brackets.

26. (Previously Presented) The protection apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the pin is configured to fit through an end link of the chain link of the connector.

27. – 30. (Canceled).